

REMARKS

With regard to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, Applicant disagrees that “working surface” is indefinite. It would not “mean different things to different people,” since it is directed to those in the tool and die industry. One having skill in this art would understand that a mold, die or tool has a “working surface.” With regard to claims 2, 3 and 4, Applicant believes the word “improve” is appropriate, since in each case, the modification makes wear resistance, resistance to the solution and oxidation resistance enhanced as opposed to if the modification were made. With regard to claims 7, 10 and 14, claim 7 and 10 have been cancelled and claim 14 has been amended. With regard to the paragraph toward the top of page 3 of the Office Action beginning “in claim 1 . . .” Applicant cannot clearly ascertain what the Examiner intends, and requests further clarification.

By this amendment, the limitations of claims 8 and 11 have been added to claim 1, and claims 8 and 11 and others have been cancelled. Thus, Applicant will limit the remarks to rejections made with respect to claims 8 and 11. Applicant will not comment on the provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejections.

Claim 11 or 8-11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Skszek ('029) or ('634A1), or Mazumder ('107) or ('112) or Koch et al., in view of Jeantette et al., or Lewis et al., optionally a [sic] view of Koch et al., as applied to claims 1-11, 14 above “as appropriate” and further in view of Hirakawa ('485). It is noted that this rejection results in so many possible combinations and permutations, that it is difficult but not unfeasible to respond to them all. Nevertheless, the Examiner concedes that none of the various references or combinations teaches specific molybdenum alloy bonded to aluminum. Hirakawa resides in a rotary seal providing relatively moveable surfaces in the form of a hardened wear resistant layer formed in a helical fashion. Without citing any reference in particular, the Examiner states on page 11 of the Office Action that “applicable base metals include various steels or aluminum (alloys) or Al-Si alloy where the wear-proof layer may be Cr-Mo or Mo-Ni-Cr or include molybdenum mixed with a carbide or C. The Examiner then goes on to cite certain sections of Hirakaw which talk only

about wear resistance and so forth, and do not provide any motivation to combine the various references and combinations. The Examiner even concedes that Applicant's invention would not result if these combinations were made, since the Examiner states "with or without teachings of aluminum substrates." The Examiner's grounds for making the combination is that "it shows the desirability of using the specific material combination, as well as teaching its formation via a laser technique process, which is suggestive of or compatible with the more specific laser deposition processes of the primary references/combinations, where the primary references/combinations provide motivation for using their technique due to its superior controllability, etc., as disclosed therein." This is not a motivation to combine. This is simply a list of observations made by the Examiner, and would not lead one of skill in the art to use the limitations set forth in Applicant's claims. And again, even if these various combinations were made, Applicant's invention as claimed would not result, thereby further precluding *prima facie* obviousness.

Based upon the foregoing, Applicant believes that this application is in condition for allowance. Applicant's below-signed representative may be contacted at the numbers below to discuss this application.

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Respectfully submitted,

By _____

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